

From: Fiona McIntosh [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2016 13:53
To: Vivien Emery; Strathard Community Council
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Loch Chon camping site proposal/application response/objections

Hello Vivien

Thank you for your reply and information regarding finding the application online.

With respect to consulting Strathard Community Council, we understand that you have not consulted them - rather you sent them information and the application last week and they will be discussing the proposal at their next meeting. I am copying them in so that they can take account of our concerns.

Until the questions and concerns below remain satisfactorily answered, we object to the proposed application.

Our concerns:

- No warden - We live very close to the proposed campsite and see the high level of rubbish/fly tipping left behind habitually by camping and fishing people. To us it's inconceivable that, without a warden being present regularly/daily, this proposed campsite wouldn't degenerate into a unhygienic, dirty and foul environment. The warden would therefore be vital to ensure that all litter is removed/tidied away (to avoid it going in to the loch or the surrounding area and damaging the local ecology), vandalism is prevented (e.g. chopping down trees to make fires), that security is maintained in terms of the campers (a lot of the current campers drink heavily, are not families, are noisy, have no respect for the environment and, on several occasions in previous years, have had to be called in to deal with violence) and ensure that the camp pitches are adhered to (rather than taking any pitch they desire in the area). There is also a note under the photo re fire pits stating that the pits will be 'hired out by a site ranger'. How is that going to work if there is not a full-time site-ranger/warden? People will then set up their own fires leading to potential forest fires and danger to other campers.
- Why are there so many pitches? There were a maximum of 10 tents pitched on only 2 days of 2015 in a 5km distance covering sites around Loch Chon. There is no demand for such a large and expensive site (more than half the budget 2015/16 & 2016/17, approximately £345k, of the national park budget is apparently assigned to this one campsite - even if it's less than half, it is still a huge amount given that they are proposing to create 'similar sites in four management zones'). Where is the proof that there is demand for such a large site?
- Construction of the blocks - do they have to be shipping containers which, with the 'dibond' panels, will look cheap and ridiculous and will likely be vandalised?
- Toilets - not sufficient number for 33 pitches (68 + people at full capacity) and too far away from the furthest pitches therefore people will simply defecate and urinate near their tent or in Loch Chon. Also, how are the toilets being regularly cleaned and maintained? Given the effluent is being treated and deposited in to Loch Chon, is the bioficient system able to cope with the various materials, e.g. bleach, sanitary towels, toilet roll, etc, that will be inevitably put into the toilets? If not, untreated effluent will go into Loch Chon.

- What is the site general maintenance plan? What is the site going to look like in 2 years time? Who is going to maintain it?
- Pressure on the B829 - the B829 is already a poorly maintained road which doesn't need an additional potential 30 plus cars per day to add to the problem. In contrast, a planning application put in for a one bedroom dwelling at Loch Dhu was rejected 7 years ago due to increased traffic flow on the B829!
- Waste facilities - If the waste facilities provided are inadequate, the general problem of disposal will be aggravated whereby people will dump bags in spots - either in people's private bins (rendering them useless to the building occupiers) or simply in the bushes or on the roadside (as they do at the moment).
- What's the purpose of the barrier on the access road? Will the barriers be down in the winter? It says that the campsite will be open all year round. If it is closed, people will just climb over the barrier and/or wild camp and block the road with their car(s) - they certainly won't go back to Glasgow or similar and choose not to camp.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please copy Gareth and Strathard Community Council (copied in to this email) in to your reply.

Thanks and kind regards
Gareth Maker and Fiona McIntosh